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SUBJECT: SOUTHEAST TURKEY PRESS SUMMARY FOR DECEMBER 12, 2005

This is the Southeastern Turkey press summary for December 12, 2005. Please note that Turkish press reports often contain errors or exaggerations; AmConsulate Adana does not vouch for the accuracy of the reports summarized here.

POLITICAL, SECURITY, HUMAN RIGHTS

BOLGE: As a result of long-lasting intelligence efforts, the Narcotics Bureau of the Adana Security Directorate conducted an operation and uncovered a drug producing laboratory in the Yesiloba quarter of Adana's Seyhan district. 5.5 tons of raw materials needed for drug production and machines to produce captagon drugs were seized by the police. Police detained six people in Adana and one person in Gaziantep in connection with the drug production business. Adana Governor extended thanks to the Narcotics Bureau members for this successful operation, and he and the Security Director Mehmet Cebe conducted studies at the spot. Reportedly, two of the people detained were chemists specialized in producing drugs (This summary is from 12/11 edition).

BOLGE: Mehmet Ali Talat, President of Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus (TRNC), delivered a presentation called "Land of Opportunities: TRNC" at a conference held by the CUGIAD (Cukurova Young Businessmen Association) in Seyhan Hotel in Adana.

SABAH / RADIKAL / CUMHURIYET: Young people of Sirnak's Cizre district are expressing their protest through graffiti against the fathers who are observing the traditional code of demanding an amount of money from the groom before giving consent for a marriage to take place. Reportedly, the amount of money demanded ranges between 3,000 and 20,000 new Turkish liras (approx. between 2,000 USD and 15,000 USD).

SABAH / RADIKAL: CIA chief Porter Goss came to Ankara reportedly to hold talks with PM Erdogan, MIT Intelligence Center Secretary and with officials from General Staff on countering terrorism.

OZGUR GUNDEM: Sanliurfa Bar Association held a panel titled "Gender Equality and Women's Rights" on the day that marks the World Human Rights Day. Chairperson of the Bar Association said in his speech that women's rights should be prioritized to be able to solve the problems of the whole society.

OZGUR GUNDEM: As a result of the efforts of the non-governmental organizations and deputy chairperson of the Turkish Parliament's Human Rights Commission, the unannounced detention of Selamettin Yilmaz in front of Yilmaz's business in the Mus province on December 7 by five civilian police officers was revealed. To date, none of the authorities have reportedly acknowledged that Yilmaz was being held by the police.

OZGUR GUNDEM: Diyarbakir Human Rights Association Executive Board member Abdulkadir Aydin, who claims that he was badly treated by the police on December 17, 2004 in Diyarbakir, after bringing his case to the courts of Turkey and trying to use all the remedies to redress the situation he filed a complaint about, decided to bring his case to the European Court of Human Rights when the Turkish Courts finally delivered a verdict that only a petty rumpus took place, whereas Aydin claims that the police officer grabbed his throat and threw him to the ground.

OZGUR GUNDEM: Ali Kaya's notebook, which was found by the local people in the car of Ali Kaya and Ozcan Ildeniz during the Semdinli bombing, included notes about people perpetrating a prostitution business in Hakkari city center. The notebook reportedly revealed that, while Jandarma Command was watching the activities of this business closely, no operations were launched to eliminate this illegal business.

ZAMAN: Three masked attackers opened fire at a house with automatic guns in a village of the Mardin province at around 8 p.m. yesterday night. 19-year-old, 17-year-old and 20-year-old persons were killed and two people were wounded as a result of the incident.

ZAMAN: Iran reportedly surrendered four PKK terrorists it caught at its border to the terrorist organization instead of surrendering them to Turkey, as these reported terrorists were transporting food, clothing and other necessary materials for building greenhouses. Iran's security officers reportedly seized the truck of the terrorists. The four terrorists, who later reportedly escaped from the terrorist organization and

surrendered themselves to the KDP (Kurdistan Democratic Party), were returned by KDP to Turkey. Ministry of Foreign Affairs allegedly sent a diplomatic note to Iran as a result of this development.

**HURRIYET / ZAMAN:** CHP (Republican People's Party) national leader Deniz Baykal urged the government to make more investments and to correct infrastructural problems of the cities in the eastern and southeastern regions of Turkey. In a written announcement, Baykal said, "The high school students in Hakkari are not seeking ways to go to northern Iraq to receive education scholarships from the schools of Massoud Barzani, they rather long for going to universities in Ankara, Izmir and Istanbul. But, the government is not helping them."

**CUMHURIYET / ZAMAN / SABAH:** DYP (True Path Party) leader Mehmet Agar addressed an audience of nearly 20,000 people in Hatay and severely criticized the policies of the government.

**CUMHURIYET:** Faculty Members' Association for the Universities in Izmir will hold a meeting today in Izmir to extend support to Yucel Askin, the rector of Van's Centennial University, who is under arrest in an hospital because of a cardiac disorder problem and whose trial date for alleged irregularities during the university's medical equipment purchases, has neared.

**SABAH:** A reported surprising private visit was paid by Zeki Ergezen, the Bitlis deputy from AKP and former Public Works Minister, to Yucel Askin in his hospital room where Askin is also held under arrest. Ergezen said that he did not bring any messages of his government to the rector and the purpose of his visit was personal.

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